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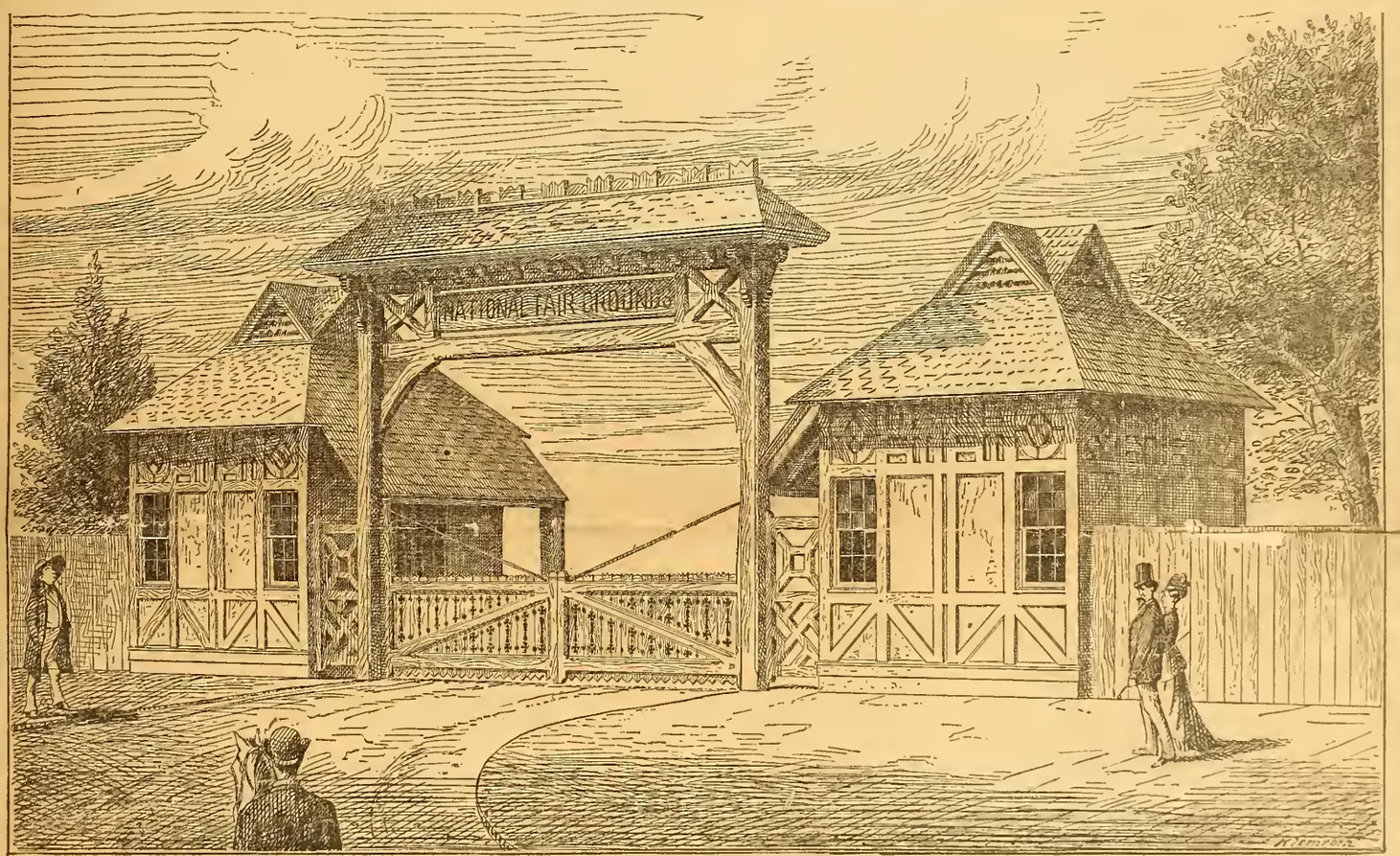
THE NATIONAL FAIR
EXHIBITION BUILDINGS
1879. ILLUSTRATED. 1879.

Published by JAMES H. McGILL, Architect, Le Droit Building, Washington, D. C.



JAMES H. McGILL, Architect. **PATTERSON AVENUE ENTRANCE.** F. W. PILLING, Builder

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Our Facilities are unsurpassed. The promptness with which we furnished the Lumber for the National Fair Association shows that we can furnish any amount of Lumber in any given time.

FACTS:

We delivered upon the Fair Grounds seventy-five thousand feet of Lumber per day for several days in succession, and largely over one million feet in thirty days.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDINGS.

PATTERSON AVENUE ENTRANCE.

The engraving on the first page gives a correct view of this gateway, which is intended to be the main public carriage entrance. On each side are quite ornate ticket offices thirteen feet square, built of wood, with roofs of cut green and black slate laid in patterns. Adjoining the ticket offices are the gates for pedestrians, inside of which there are to be turnstiles at the two ticket-takers' windows. In the center is the carriage-way, twenty-four feet wide, which is surmounted by a handsome cornice, in which is set a long tablet, with the words "National Fair Grounds" painted on it. Besides this gateway, there are two others similar in finish at the different approaches to the grounds,—one at the club-house for the stockholders and their friends, and the other at the Ivy City entrance. There is also a large gateway, with five entrances in it for pedestrians only, near the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad depot.

ART BUILDING.

The Art Building is seventy-seven feet long, and fifty-one feet wide in the center and forty-four feet wide in the wings. It contains the main center room twenty by forty-five feet, and four smaller rooms, two on each side, twenty by twenty-six feet. The large room has an average height of twenty-five feet and the smaller rooms twenty feet. The walls are of pressed brick laid in black mortar, with ornamental moulded and black brick string courses, relieved in places with foliated panels of red terra cotta. The roof is covered with black slates interspersed with bands of green slate. The rooms are lighted entirely by large skylights. Instead of plastering the inside walls, they have been faced with narrow planed and matched boards, so as to give a solid and convenient surface to fasten picture-hooks to. This building was erected in eighteen days.

MAIN BUILDING.

This building is expected to serve as the main building for this year only, and then take its place as a secondary building after the large building is erected. The present main building is one large room, one hundred and twenty feet square. The center part—seventy feet square—has an average height of about forty feet, and the remaining portion of the building an average height of about twenty feet in the clear. The middle part of the front is two stories high, giving a commodious office-room in the second floor. The walls of the building are of brick; the roof is covered with tin. The whole building, both outside and in, is painted in brilliant colors, and presents a very striking and attractive appearance. It was built in thirty working days.

MACHINERY HALL.

This building is two hundred feet long and eighty feet wide. The front portion is arranged for offices for the President, Secretary, Marshal, Committees, and Judges.

In the rear of the offices the building consists of one large exhibition hall, similar in finish and style of construction with the main building. It was built in twenty-four working days.

THE GRAND STAND.

The grand stand is three hundred feet long, and, including the end stairways, has a length of three hundred and fourteen feet. It is thirty-eight feet wide. The superstructure rests on one hundred and sixty-two heavy brick piers laid in strong cement mortar. The timber used in the building is of the best quality of Georgia pine and of large sizes. Nothing has been spared to make this building strong beyond all question. The first story, which is twelve feet high in front and twenty-three feet high in the rear, contains a lobby thirty-eight by sixty feet, in which is located the two telegraph offices, cigar stands, baggage-checking counters, &c. In the south end is located the ladies' dining-room, thirty by one hundred feet; a kitchen, twenty by thirty feet; a ladies' waiting and toilet rooms, each twenty feet square. In the north end is located the gentlemen's saloon, thirty-eight by one hundred feet, and a wash-room twenty by thirty-eight feet. In the rear, near the middle, the two large main stairways, each seven feet wide, are built.

In the second story there is a seating capacity for three thousand persons, and standing room for nearly a thousand more. Handsome oak chairs have been provided for seats. The quarter stretch in front has been planked over. From the grand stand a perfect view of every foot of the splendid mile track is obtained.

The building was sufficiently completed in fifteen working days so that it can be used for all purposes, and the ornamental work and painting will be finished after the Fair.

In addition to these buildings, the club-house was remodelled, a two-story piazza sixty feet square, and a restaurant thirty by one hundred feet were built on Stewart Hill; and upwards of twenty large stable, cattle, and poultry exhibition buildings, of an average size of thirty by one hundred feet each, and fully five miles of fencing, have been erected during the seven weeks the work was in progress. The magnificent mile track was also surveyed, graded, surfaced, and finished during the same time.

To the energy and ability of the President of the Association, Mr. W. M. Galt, the Secretary, Mr. E. C. Dean, and to Commissioner Twining, Messrs. Blackburn, Claggett, McKibben and Reed, of the Board of Directors, Treasurer Browning, and Messrs. Wright, Clarke, Woodbury, and others of the working committees, the public is indebted for the successful preparation of this enterprise in time for the opening of the Fair. Mr. Thomas Wilson has charge of the Art Department. During the coming year it is expected the grounds and approaches will be put in perfect order.

The designing, supervising, and general directing of the work was done by James H. McGill, architect, LeDroit Building. Mr. Frederick W. Pilling was the builder. The Washington Brick Machine Company furnished the Brick. James Hughes did the brick work. Wheatley Bros. and Thos. W. Smith furnished the lumber. Caverly & Co. did the tinning. Webster & Bro. did the plastering. Messrs. Hawke & Meehan had charge of the painting. Schneider & Sons furnished the iron work. C. Fanning did the slating. Albert Gleason built the racing tract.

JAMES H. McGILL,

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Architect of the temporary and permanent Northern Liberty Markets, the Riggs Market, the Skating Rink, Le Droit Building, St. Cloud Building, Warner's Building, Walsh's Building, all the Villas and Cottages in Le Droit Park, all the National Fair Exhibition Buildings, and of hundreds of other Buildings in and around the National Capitol.

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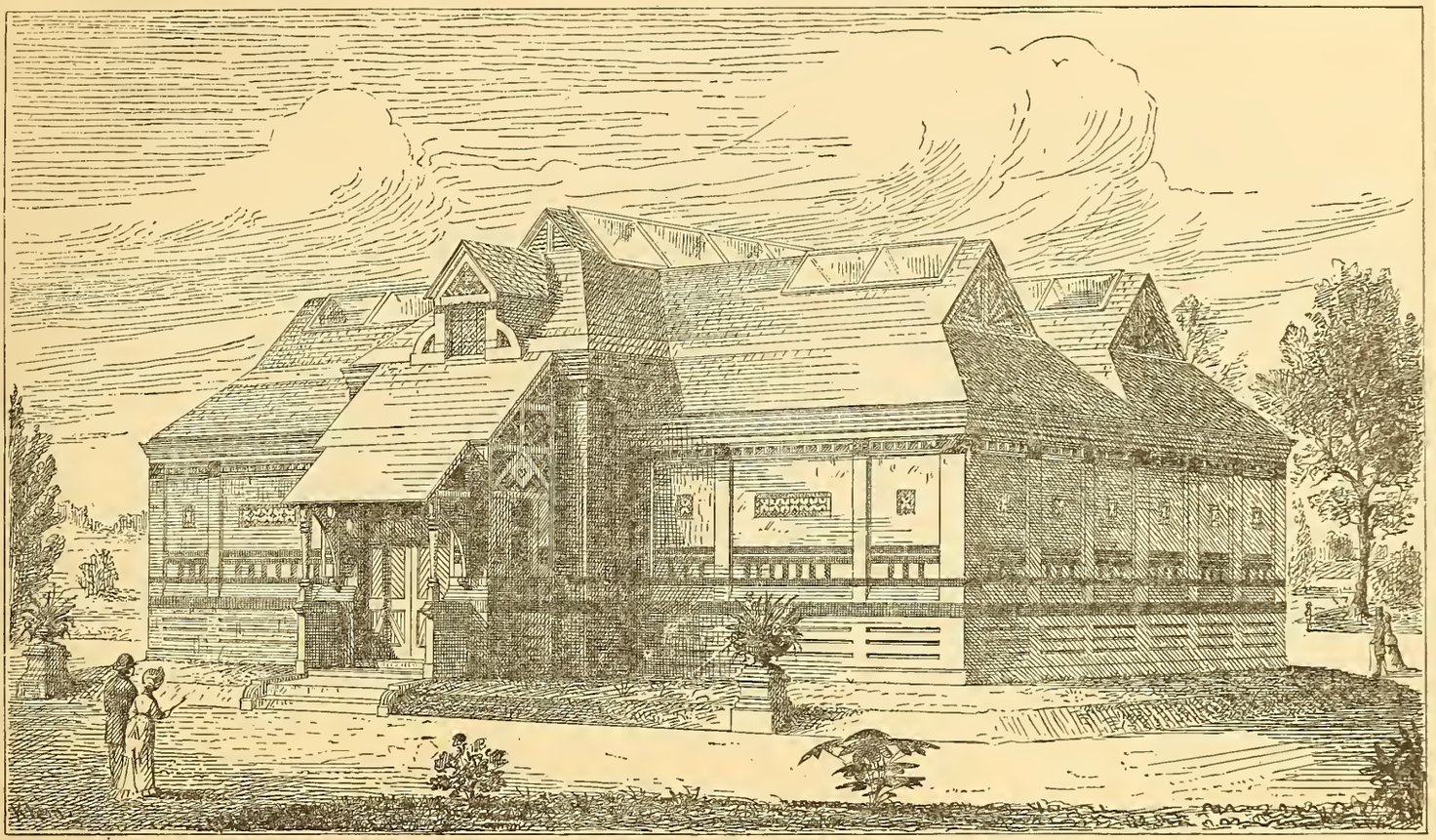

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Bricks sold for cash at lowest market price.

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The U. S. Government uses these brick in the construction of all buildings in Washington and its vicinity.

500,000 delivered to the National Fair Grounds in ten days. 4,500,000 furnished, in one hundred days, to the National Museum (or Smithsonian Annex). 2,000,000 furnished to new State, War, and Navy Departments. Millions furnished the District Government.

The leading Architects and Builders use and recommend them.

During the past three years upwards of 2,000,000 of bricks manufactured by the Washington Brick-Machine Company have been used in buildings erected under my supervision, and I take pleasure in saying that in all cases they have given entire satisfaction. JAMES H. McGILL, *Architect.*

I have to say, that a large number of these bricks have been used in buildings erected under my charge, and have proved to be fully equal in quality, and much superior in shape, to the bricks generally in the market. * * * * I have found these bricks to possess great advantages in point of economy and appearance. * * * *

(Signed) ADOLF CLUSS, *Architect and Civil Engineer.*

I consider the bricks made by the company equal, if not superior, to any manufactured in this vicinity, and have no hesitation in recommending them to any one having occasion to use bricks. (Signed) JOHN FRASER.

To the Trustees of the Washington Brick-Machine Co.:

GENTLEMEN: As architect of the building erected by Mr. W. W. Corcoran on the corner of Fifteenth street and Pennsylvania avenue, in this city, I was called upon to examine the quality of the bricks made by your company.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

The walls of the building above referred to are more solid and present a more regular appearance than any others which I have ever constructed. When cutting into them for various purposes, the bricks were found to be very solid and hard, and the mortar adhered with great power and to an unusual degree.

The bricks gave entire satisfaction in every respect, in the construction of this building, and, from experience in using them, I can unhesitatingly recommend them as being thoroughly suited to the construction of the best and largest class of buildings. JAMES RENWICK, *Architect and Engineer.*

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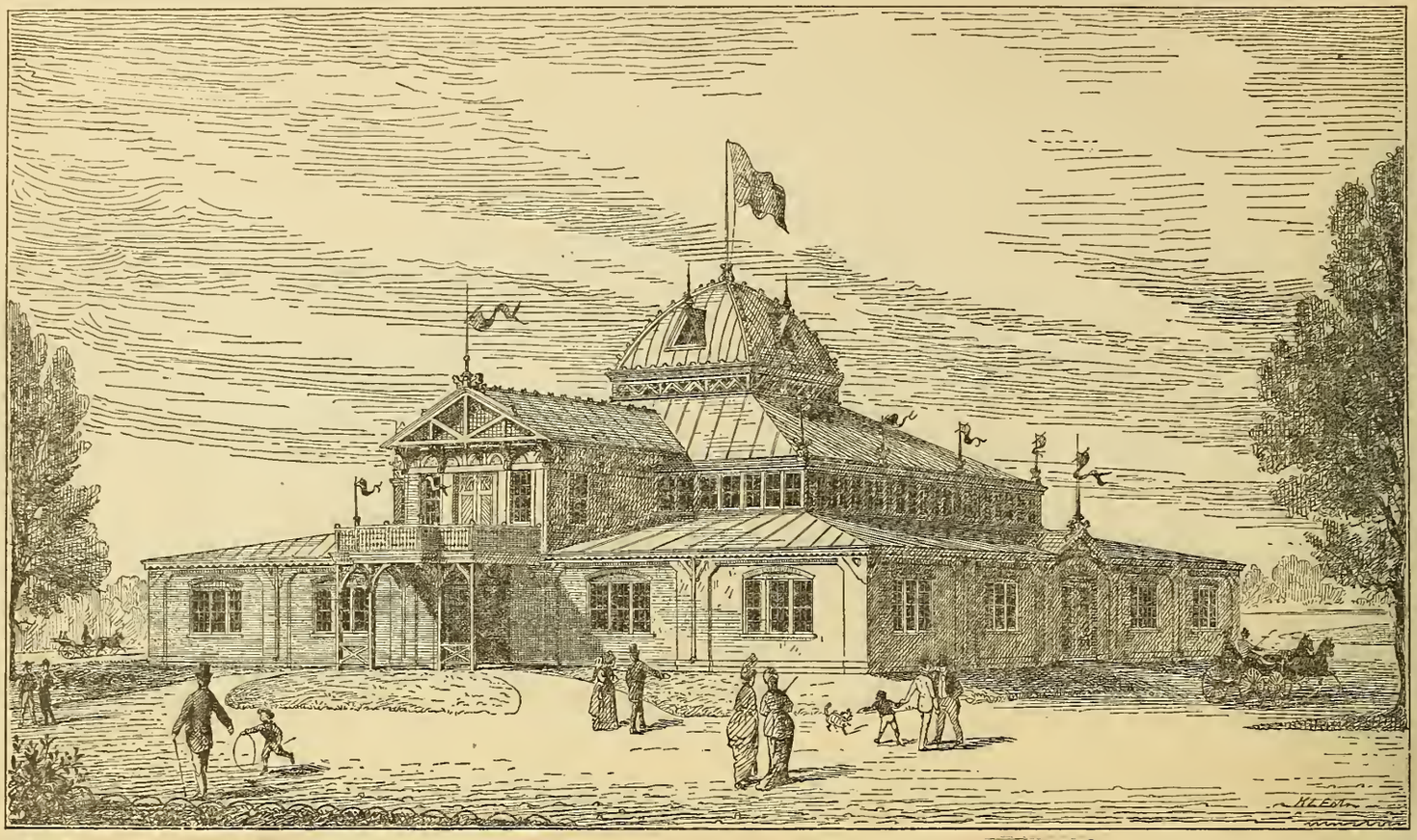

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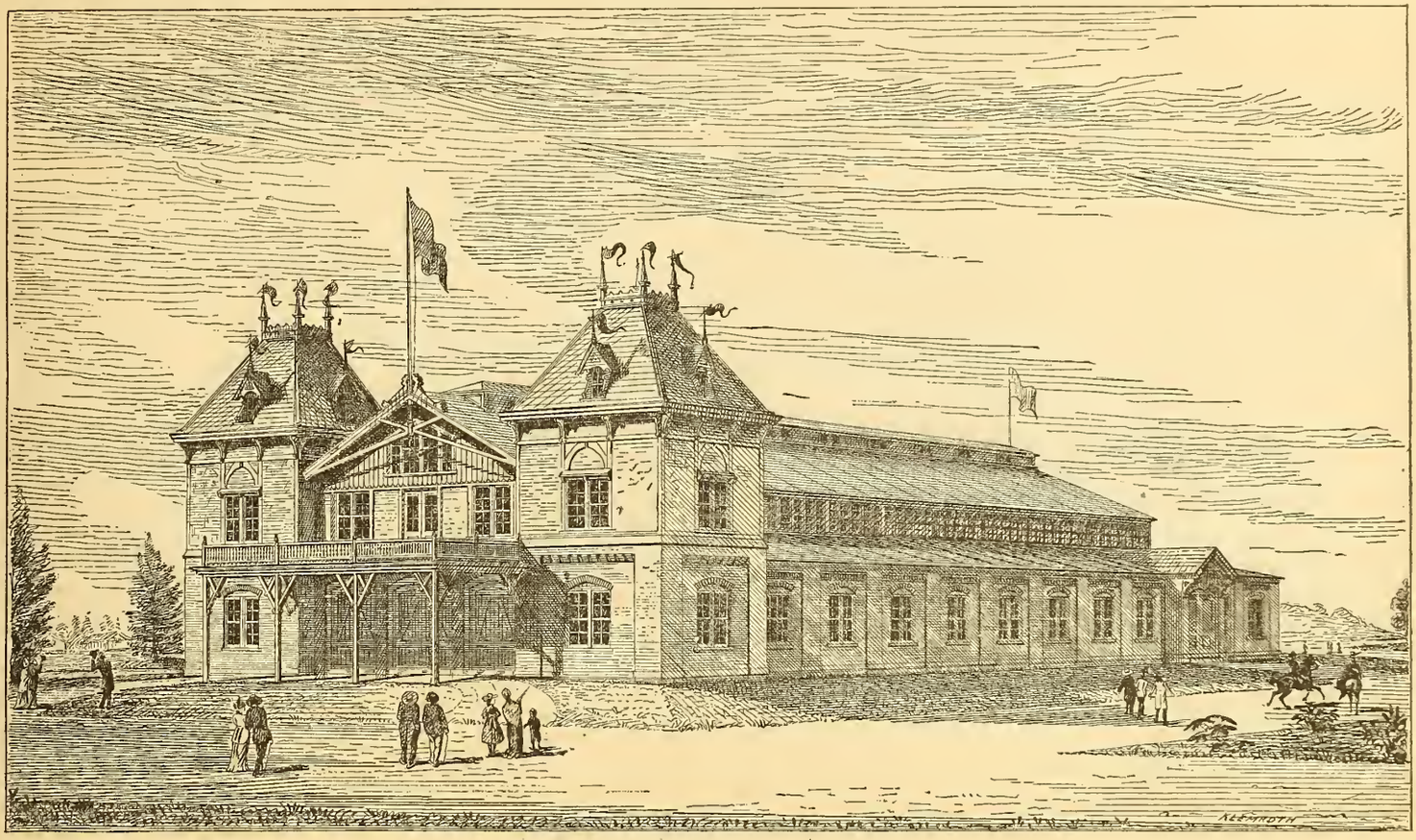

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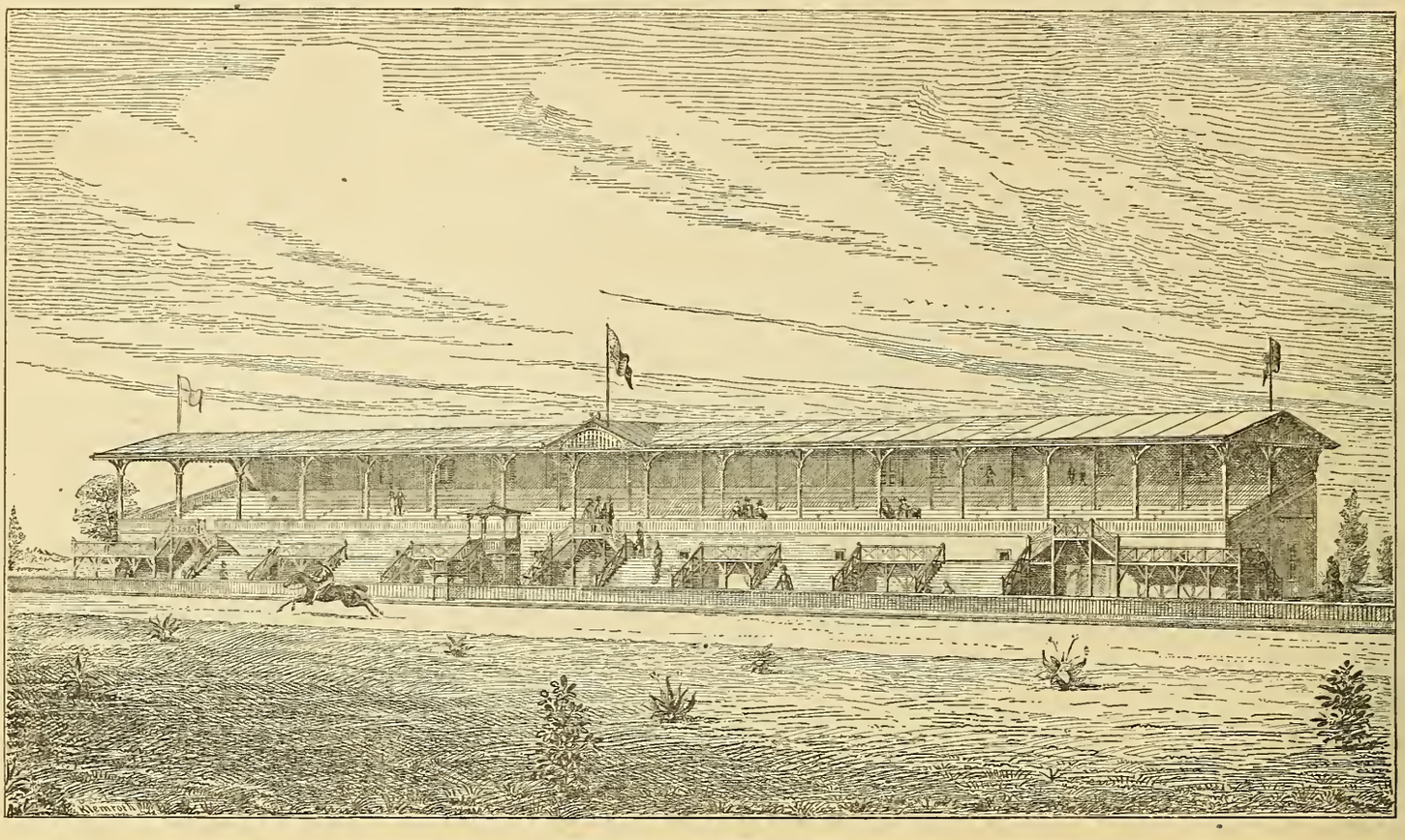

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